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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
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Bloomington

Law schools already cooperate, dean says

By Susan Forste
ids Staff Writer

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Despite recent statements that closer cooperation is needed between I.U.'s two law schools, the two actually work together a great deal, Bloomington Law School dean Douglass G. Boshkoff said Wednesday in a question-and-answer session.

Speaking to about 150 law students and faculty, Boshkoff gave his views on the status of the school in response to newspaper articles last week that suggested plans were afoot to close the Bloomington school or merge its administration with Indianapolis.

A committee is being formed by I.U. President John W. Ryan to study the "organizational relationship" of the two schools, Boshkoff said.

Chief Justice Richard M. Givan of the Indiana Supreme Court said last Thursday that a merger would provide more opportunities for each school to take advantage of the other's

attractions. But according to Boshkoff, they already do.

Bloomington faculty teach courses in Indianapolis and Indianapolis faculty teach courses here, Boshkoff said. Students can take courses at both places and "the libraries have been cooperating (by lending books to each other) for years," he said.

Boshkoff believes separate administrations are best for the schools. He said they administratively were one school from 1940 to 1968, "and it didn't work."

"Faculties are built around intellectual relationships with people seen every day," Boshkoff said. The 100-mile round-trip distance between Bloomington and Indianapolis hinders building such relationships, he said.

"There was almost unanimous faculty agreement that we should be two schools in 1968," he said. "Unified administration was not a happy experience for anybody."

Some believe the two schools should have equal requirements, clinical

opportunities and academic standards, but "I don't happen to be of that school," Boshkoff said.

"The schools have two different educational environments," Boshkoff said. "We should take advantage of this and not mix them."

Because of its proximity to the state courts and legislature, Indianapolis provides more opportunities for parttime legal jobs, Boshkoff said. On the other hand, Bloomington's connection with the rest of the Bloomington campus allows it to offer more joint-degree programs than Indianapolis.

Included in the committee discussion is the establishment of one dean to administer both campuses. Until the controversy is resolved, a replacement cannot be appointed for Boshkoff, who will resign in January. It is unlikely that anyone would become dean without knowing his exact role in the system Boshkoff said. An acting dean probably will be appointed to run the school, he said.